

# The Baytown Sun

Covering Southeast Harris County, Chambers County and Southeast Liberty County

57°  
Overcast

Advanced Search

TSO 381-427-7374  
381 West Texas  
Baytown  
www.thebaytownsun.com

Home > Opinion > Guest Columns

## Waste pits – Let's keep moving

Story Comments

Print Font Size: - +



Jackie Young

Posted: Thursday, January 19, 2017 12:00 am

Jackie Young | 0 comments

As the Environmental Protection Agency's public comment period for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site closed, comments emerged in support of EPA's proposal for removal of the pits and in opposition. The San Jacinto River Coalition has spent nearly seven years working with the communities nearest the waste pits as well as our federal and local government agencies and environmental groups that firmly support the EPA's proposed remedy.

It appears that those in opposition are focusing on information that didn't evaluate the big picture and portrays removal as dredging. The EPA proposal does not recommend dredging. Rather, it recommends isolating and excavating a major source of toxic waste that is currently sitting in the middle of the San Jacinto River. The coalition is unaware of any entities which support dredging as this is an archaic and inefficient method for source removal. Rather, the coalition prefers to rely on sound science and engineering capabilities of the 21st century.

The parties responsible for the waste pits foot the bill for the clean-up and have strongly advocated for adding additional material to the temporary cap currently atop the waste pits, which is one of the cheapest possible options. When a high-cost clean-up is in question, the EPA calls a National Remedy Review Board meeting, page two of the memorandum produced from that meeting states "the Preferred Remedy provides greater permanence in comparison to other alternatives. Less costly alternatives rely on remedies that have a higher chance of failure by leaving Principal Threat Waste materials in the river, resulting in greater uncertainty. Contrary to the City of Baytown, Harris County, and regional Congressional Reps, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) submitted comments to the EPA stating 'TCEQ cannot support the preferred remedy at this time without a further evaluation of the short-term risks and the uncertainties associated with the implementation of the preferred remedy.'"

TCEQ's comments bring up several points which are valid and while we appreciate them, this shouldn't keep TCEQ from endorsing the EPA's proposal for the only remedy that can guarantee the prevention of future catastrophic events. Many of TCEQ's points are broad and would be raised in the design phase, which is the next phase of the Superfund process. Rather than requesting information to be deliberated prior to the finalization of the waste pits' record of decision, we need to keep the process moving toward the clean-up.

Lisa Gossett, a volunteer for the coalition states: "If we are required to wait until every possible piece of information that could be developed to determine and design a remedy were exhausted, the remediation of this site could be delayed indefinitely. It makes sense both economically and for the protection of our health and the environment to move forward with remediation based on the already-extensive information related to this site."

Let's keep the process moving and keep in mind that the current cap atop the pits has been highly problematic and unable to successfully contain the pits' highly toxic waste material.

Enjoy hands-free hearing.

Texas Professional Hearing Center, Inc.

"We listen so you can hear"

焼  
HIBACHI  
GRILL & BUFFET  
3703 Garth Rd.  
Baytown

PATIENTS  
EMERGENCY ROOM  
24/7 ER  
TREATING ALL EMERGENCIES  
No Medicare or Medicaid Accepted  
LOCATED AT I-10 & HWY 146



9841707

Most Popular Stocks

Stories

Jackie Young is executive director of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance (Home of the San Jacinto River Coalition). [TXHEA.org](#)

Tweet

0

Pinit

0

Share

0

Discuss

Print

Posted in Guest columns on Thursday, January 19, 2017 12:00 am.

Similar Stories

- EDF history: A major employer exits the area
- Grading the grading system
- Sweet & clean footprints in 2017
- Open letter to state lawmakers
- Remove dioxin from waste pits

Most Read

- Cedar Bayou 8th-grader to attend inauguration
- James Christopher (Chris) Estetter
- Man and his metal detector find unique piece of history
- Cedar Bayou 8th-grader to attend inauguration
- Residents voice opposition to funding method

Cedar Bayou 8th-grader to attend inauguration

James Christopher (Chris) Estetter

Man and his metal detector find unique piece of history

Cedar Bayou 8th-grader to attend inauguration

Residents voice opposition to funding method

Photos

Videos

### Sun Weekly Survey

What do you think of the state's A-F grading system for schools?

☐ It's a good thing to improve accountability

☐ It's too confusing to be useful

☐ It puts too much emphasis on test scores

Vote

View Results

Sign up for our e-Mail Lists

News Updates  
Would you like to receive our daily news? Signup today!

Manage Your Lists

Rules of Conduct

1

**Keep it Clean.**  
Please avoid obscene, vulgar, lewd, racist or sexually-oriented language. PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CAPS LOCK.

2

**Don't Threaten.**  
Threats of harming another person will not be tolerated.

3

**Be Truthful.**  
Don't knowingly lie about anyone or anything.

4

**Be Nice.**  
No racism, sexism or any sort of -ism that is degrading to another person.

5

**Be Proactive.**  
Use the 'Report' link on each comment to let us know of abusive posts.

6

**Share with Us.**  
We'd love to hear eyewitness accounts, the history behind an article.

Watch this discussion

Remediation

Begin typing here...

Share on Twitter

Share on Facebook

Post Comment

Print comments

NASCAR Latest News

Ford finally gets to publicly celebrate signing SHR

Jan. 18, 2017 4:44 PM EST

Darlington to celebrate late 1980s with throwback weekend

Jan. 18, 2017 11:54 AM EST

Oklahoma native Christopher Bell wins Chili Bowl

Jan. 15, 2017 2:11 AM EST

Carl Edwards makes pure and private decision to leave NASCAR

Jan. 11, 2017 2:40 PM EST

AP Sources: Edwards walking away from final year with Gibbs



Jan. 10, 2017 3:55 PM EST

Advertisement



## Sections

- Home
- News
- Sports
- Opinion
- Lifestyle
- Communities
- Obituaries
- Photos
- Videos
- Weather

## Services

- About Us
- Place An Ad
- Home Delivery
- Subscription Services
- Submission Forms
- Site Index
- Add Search Toolbar
- Newsstand Locations

## Contact us

[The Baytown Sun](#)

Baytown Sun

**Phone number:** (281) 422-8302

**E-mail:**

[customerservice@baytownsun.com](mailto:customerservice@baytownsun.com)

**Address:** 1301 Memorial Drive  
Baytown, TX 77520

## Search

Search

Search in:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All | <input type="checkbox"/> Communities     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News           | <input type="checkbox"/> Opinion         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports         | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo Galleries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifestyle      | <input type="checkbox"/> Video           |

© Copyright 2017, BaytownSun.com, Baytown, TX | Terms of Use

southern  
newspapers